



1 Corinthians 10:7_And They Rose Up to Play

March 2, 2014

Text: 1 Corinthians 10:7

Review:

Do you recall these verses from 1 Cor 8?

1Co 8:8-12 ESV Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. (9) But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. (10) For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? (11) And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. (12) Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.

- Remember that the some of the Corinthians thought eating food offered to idols was a “right.”
- Although Paul seemed to agree that the food in and of itself wasn't evil (1 Cor 10:25), he wasn't at all impressed by their “knowledge” since it apparently puffed them up (1 Cor 8:1) to the point where they thought eating in pagan temples was ok.
- To be clear, the Holy Spirit through Paul warned the Corinthians NOT to eat in pagan temples and continues to warn them in chapter 10 by looking at past examples idolatrous behavior.

From 1 Cor 10:5-6, we learned:

- That with most of the generation that came of our Egypt, “*God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.*” (Num 13:1-14:45)
- By referencing this historic disobedience by the people Israel where the generation that came out of Egypt died in the wilderness, Paul attempts to demonstrate to the Corinthians how seriously God takes idolatry.
- From this example, we learn that:
 1. Idolatry is a serious and **deceitful** sin. No physical idols were present; but a controlling fear and love of comfort were.
 2. God's commands are not **burdensome**! Had they listened, they would have inherited the promise!
 3. God is **Merciful**! If you remember, Moses interceded for the people and God listened (Num 14:11-20). Instead of giving them what they deserved for their idolatrous disobedience, killing them all quickly (Num 14:12), the Lord let them live (albeit in the wilderness), bear children, and another generation, led by Joshua, inherited the Promise.

1 Cor 10:7

1Co 10:7 ESV Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play."

This is a reference to the sad history of Exodus 32. Let us read these examples soberly; that prayerfully, we might receive the full measure of warning, teaching, and exhortation the Spirit intended for Corinth.

Questions and Lessons from Exodus 32:

V1 - Moses was on the mountain just 40 days and nights! (Ex 24:18) After seeing the Plagues (Ex 7-12), the Red Sea (Ex 14), eating heavenly bread (Ex 16) and drinking "Rock" water (Ex 17), all it took was 40 days to apostatize?!?

- What is it about having to **wait** (or suffer long) that tests our faith so much?

V2-6 – Aaron, who went up on the mountain and fellowshiped with God along with Nadab, Abihu, and 70 elders of Israel (Ex 24:9-11), and who was likely nearby when the Moral Law was given (Ex 19:24), STILL caved in to the people's demands!

- Why didn't he **stand** his ground as a leader? Why didn't any other leader say anything?
- Why couldn't he make the connection that the very gold he called for were gifts from God? (Ex 12:35-36)
- Instead of solemn worship, they rose up to play around an idol god! Are we truly any different than they?
- Again, keep in mind, the **Ten Commandments** had been given, read, and agreed to by this time! Aaron, 70 elders, Nadab and Abihu, and all the people knew to "have no other Gods" before the God of Israel and not to make a graven image...the First and Second Commandments!

*Exo 24:3-7 ESV Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the rules. **And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do."** (4) And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. (5) And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. (6) And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. (7) **Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient."***

V7-10 – What might we learn from the Lord's response? What about...

- That God **hates** idolatry and views it as corruption?
- That He sees it and it offends His holy character?
- That being "stiff-necked" leaves us susceptible to this sin?
- That idolatry angers Him and will bring **wrath**?
- Friends, idolatry offends God in part (and in my opinion) because it gives what belongs to Him to another...worship, praise, credit, adoration, exaltation, honor. It is attributing to that which is dead and demonic, that which belongs to Elohim and El Shaddai! It puts the wrong god on display in God's own creation!

V11-14 – God is **merciful!**

- Oh, that we might pray like this, crying out to Christ for His continued mercy on the disobedient!
- Oh, that we might thank Him continually for His mercy toward us as well!

V15-18 – Instead of **war** there was idol worship.

- Instead of engaging an enemy, they rebelled against God, dancing and playing before a false image.
- We too are in a war. And we too will be tempted to submit ourselves to false ideologies instead of remaining true to the God who delivered us.

- There SHOULD be the “noise” of war in our camp. War against sin (Rom 7:23). War against principalities and powers (Eph 6). War against any “argument or lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God.” (2 Cor 10:5) **Is there?**

V19-25 – Godly **leadership** is SO important.

- Here we see examples of both good and bad leadership; Moses’ righteous anger is contrasted against Aaron’s excuse making.
- Moses, so angry that he destroys the tablets, sees and grieves over the sin of the people; people whom he **loved** as he just interceded for them. Aaron, now in the hot seat, blames the people.
- I mean, “out came this calf” Aaron? Really? ☺ (Ex 32:4 vs 32:24) Aaron knew FULL well what he was doing!
- Verse 25 is a hammer: “Aaron had let them break loose.” Now we must view this principle first of all through Christ’s cross, principles of self-government according to the gospel, and the individual nature of the Day of Judgment where all will stand before God.
- BUT...there is still a principle here: Leadership is **critical**.

V26-35 – Sin can have such terrible **consequences**.

- These verses are so sad. I’d like to say that “there is always a remnant” (the Levites in this case), and that we need to be willing to “strap on our swords” for God, etc. And I suppose that is true, metaphorically speaking.
- But reading it is just so...heartbreaking. About 300 people died. (v28) Husbands, fathers, sons. Names were blotted out of God’s book (v33).
- Even with the promise of protection, wrath was also promised. (v34)
- Finally, a plague was sent among the people. (v35)

All of this devastation was from the people’s sin of idolatry where they created their own god and “rose up to play.” **Paul’s warning was for Corinth, but it is for us too.**

Let us put no other God’s before Him. Let us be mindful of who we worship, repent quickly when we fail, and worship Christ alone. May His Name be praised.

Amen.